

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 15-24, 26-37 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10-13, 15, 18, 19, 21-24, 26, 29, 30, 32, and 33 are presently amended. Claims 35-37 are new. Claims 3, 14, and 25 are canceled.

Claims 1, 12, and 23 are amended to more clearly recite the mechanism/method by which the present invention determines if parameter data should be loaded from nonvolatile to volatile memory. Specifically, claims 1, 12, and 23 recite storing specific information in response to a sixth command, and that the specific information is indicative of whether operating parameter data stored in the nonvolatile memory is automatically loaded after the memory initialization process. Thus, the operating parameter data is automatically copied to the volatile memory after the memory initialization process step only when indicated to do so by the specific information, irrespective of whether parameter data exists in the volatile memory.

This is in direct conflict with previously cited prior art, which show a first nonvolatile memory space for holding factory default settings and a second nonvolatile memory space for holding user default settings. The prior art explains that the user default settings are automatically used whenever they are present, and that the factory default settings are used only when no user default settings are present.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully point out that claims 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 24, 26, 29, 30, 33 recite dividing the nonvolatile memory into multiple areas for holding distinctively identified sets of parameter data. This feature is useful in the speeding up of particular operations of a device. For example, if the device is a printer and a user is printing from a host running a word processing program or running a drawing/drafting program, the printer will have to respond differently to each program and generate a specific parameter data set in volatile memory for processing each program's requests. Rather than having to re-generate this parameter data set each time the printer receives a print command from a different program, the present invention transfers the previously generated parameter data as a set of data parameters to

nonvolatile memory for future use. When the particular program is used again, the parameter data set that was previously generated, stored, and associated with the program is recovered from nonvolatile memory and transferred to volatile memory for use. This is made even more clear in claims 8, 19, and 30 wherein it states that the nonvolatile memory stores identification information for correlating the parameter data in accordance with the received command.

Additionally, new claims 35, 36 and 37 explain how the present invention deals with a situation when there is not enough room left in the nonvolatile memory to store all the generated parameter data stored in the volatile memory. In this case, only specific parameter data from among all the generated parameter data is transferred to the nonvolatile memory. Presumably, the selected parameter data would be the parameters that require the most processing time to generate. Support for this limitation is found at least in page 10, lines 12-17 of the present patent application. Clearly, none of the cited prior art teach or suggest conditionally transferring only a pre-selected set of parameter values from the volatile memory when the nonvolatile memory does not have enough available capacity to save all the parameter values in the volatile memory.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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